

UV Radiation/Skin Cancer Committee Meeting #2

August 14, 2002, 2-4pm

Med-Chi, Krause Room

⇒ Introductions and announcements

- Committee members introduced themselves by name and affiliation.
- Kate Shockley announced that the Town Hall Meetings concluded last week and were attended by over 160 citizens.
- Registration for the Consensus Conference is open and can be completed online. Please register as soon as possible if you plan to attend. The formal program was made available.
- The next meetings of this committee will be September 4 and September 24, 2002, 9-11am, at Johns Hopkins Greenspring Station, Foxleigh Building, Suite 301.

⇒ EPA SunWise School Program (Kristin Kenausis)

- The program has designed activities and materials targeting children K-8. The materials are available via the website and the storybook and activity book are available in Spanish.
(<http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/>)
- The Toolkit is also available for order through the website. The Kit contains cross-curricular classroom activities for K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade levels. The Kit also includes tools such as a UV-sensitive frisbee and a comic book, which reinforce the sun safety lessons. Information for parents is also available and the website has a variety of games and activities for kids.
- Some supplies are limited due to budgetary constraints, but efforts will be made to get some kind of materials and information to all who are interested.

⇒ American Cancer Society SunSafe Community (Kamela Robinson)

- ACS has designed and updated a variety of brochures related to sun safe practices and skin cancer/melanoma.
- Anne Arundel county was designated as a SunSafe Community in Maryland. SunSafe Communities engage a multi-channel approach to increase sun protection behaviors among youth. The target areas include: day care centers/preschools, schools, primary care providers, recreation areas including beaches and pools, and the media.
- Queen Anne's county will be the next area in Maryland to become a SunSafe Community.

⇒ Discussion of key points

- A Behavioral Risk Factor Survey is being conducted through the University of Maryland and began August 1. The survey is a random digit telephone survey and does include questions related to skin cancer prevention and sun safe practices.
- Discussion of the DermaScan and its use as an awareness and educational tool. There is no valid screening method for skin cancer other than visual inspection.
- Discussion of the focus of the committee which is the prevention and early detection of skin cancer. Comments included the difficulty in controlling the practices of many different types of providers and the importance of empowering patients to ask for the appropriate exam.
- Presentation of the MSDE guidelines for sun safety. Kate Shockley reviewed that the guideline was distributed to supervisors of school health services. This group allows sunscreen use by students in their schools and sunscreen is not considered a medication. While this guideline serves as a standard of care for school nurses, it is not part of statute or regulation.
- Suggestion that the MSDE guidelines should be publicized due to concern that people are not aware of the guidelines.
- Discussion of possible policy initiatives, including hats being allowed in schools and providers being allowed to apply sunscreen to small children.

- Discussion of the importance of reaching the teen population. Suggestions included the use of a celebrity role model to endorse sun safe behaviors, graphic pictures as a scare tactic, and the importance of finding a young role model close in age to the target population.
- Discussion of tanning booths and possible related legislation. Suggestions included requiring parental permission for the use of a tanning bed (as in Texas), warning labels, and requiring patrons to sign a statement informing them of the risk of skin cancer.
- Suggestion that several different strategies should be employed and that we shouldn't just focus on sun safe behavior during the summer months- the effort should be year-round.
- Discussion of the use of self-tanners as alternatives to sun bathing.